



News Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Video Conferencing Brings State Park Experience to 120 Third Graders Riverside County Students to Experience Anza-Borrego in Class

- WHO:** Third graders at Amelia Earhart Elementary School
- WHAT:** California State Parks and Amelia Earhart Elementary School have teamed up to bring California's largest state park – Anza-Borrego Desert State Park – from San Diego County to a school in Riverside County through videoconferencing. The students will learn about paleontology and fossils in their classrooms while interacting with a park interpreter at the park through videoconferencing. It is part of California State Parks program called PORTS or Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students. Later this year, these same students plan to utilize PORTS to experience Año Nuevo State Reserve in San Mateo County, Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County, and the State Capitol Museum in Sacramento. During the 2006-07 school year, the program served approximately 15,000 students in 500 classrooms across California.
- WHEN:** Wednesday, November 7, 2007 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Each program will last approximately 45 minutes.
- WHERE:** Students and State Park Interpreter Brad Krey in the classroom
Amelia Earhart Elementary School,
42-250 Dune Palm Road, Room 505
Indio, CA, 92201
- Interpreter LuAnn Thompson in the park
Stout Research Center Paleontology Lab
State Parks' Colorado District Headquarters
200 Palm Canyon Drive,
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
- WHY:** The program and curriculum are offered to any school connected to the California K-12 High Speed Network. When a real field trip is not a feasible, PORTS allows park rangers and interpreters to look directly into the eyes of children and engage them in conversation as the students sit in their classrooms and study science, history, language arts and other academic content standards. The PORTS program provides students with access to park experts regardless of their geographic location or economic status. <http://www.ports.parks.ca.gov/> # # #